

IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION

UMM QASR SEAPORT

The Port of Umm Qasr was not damaged during the recent conflict, but it had not been properly maintained for several years. Umm Qasr's infrastructure requires repair, refurbishment, regular maintenance and, in some situations, replacement. Improvements at the port include dredging the navigation channel, removing sunken wrecks, establishing electrical power, repairing cargo handling equipment, and rehabilitating buildings. Bechtel is responsible for dredging, wreck removal, and repairs to the port's infrastructure, while USAID partner SSA Marine manages port operations.

Accomplishments

- Reopened to commercial traffic June 17; first passenger vessel test completed July 16. \
- Dredging operations are completed, and all 21 berths are open to deep-draft ships. Two Iraqi dredgers will maintain the harbor.
- Completed renovation of grain-receiving facility, which can process up to 600 metric tons of grain an hour.
- Port tariffs were applied on June 20, opening the way towards financial sustainability for port operations.
- Generators have been installed, energizing all three 11-kV ring mains and restoring power to most parts of the port.
- Work is 60 percent complete on security fencing at the old and new ports and grain facility.
- Petroleum is being trans-shipped through Umm Qasr; container and roll-on-roll-off cargoes are also arriving.

Next Steps

- Manage customs, immigration, and security for cargoes.
- Make capital purchases of cranes and equipment to increase port capacity.

Issues

- Security at the Port of Umm Qasr remains problematic. Corruption among Iraqi Port Authority police is a serious issue, and looting of cargo is a daily occurrence.